

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Elizabeth Itzler and I am a student at the University of Connecticut.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am originally from Pennsylvania, but I have been attending UCONN and living in Connecticut for the past three years. Through UCONN, I was able to learn about issues pertaining to the Connecticut undocumented community. As I am 21 years old, I am still under my mother's insurance program, but pay for my own medical bills. Even for me, as a U.S citizen, paying for my medical bills is costly and I cannot imagine how much undocumented individuals have to pay for insurance and their medical bills. I may not personally be undocumented, but I know many people in my life who are and it is unfair that they pay taxes but can't get state insurance. Many of them will not go to the doctor or specialists when they are sick because they know the bills will be high. This causes their health to worsen because they can not afford their medical costs. This bill would allow undocumented immigrants access to healthcare and a brighter future without health consequences. With the help of this bill, the people in my life will not have to choose between paying for rent or food and going to the doctor.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Elizabeth Itzler